

## Office bearers

President: David Stickney  
 Secretary: Wendy Savage  
 Treasurer: David Mules  
 Publicity Officer: Alix Williams  
 Magazine editor: Tamara Leitch  
 Conservation Coordinator: Jackie Tims  
 Archivist: Marja Bouman  
 Webmaster: John Sunderland

## Contact

The Secretary  
 Latrobe Valley Field  
 Naturalists Club Inc.  
 P.O. Box 1205  
 Morwell VIC 3840  
 info@fieldnats.org  
 (03) 5634 2246

## Website

lvfieldnats.org

## General meetings

Held at 7:30 pm on the  
 fourth Friday of each month  
 at the Newborough Uniting  
 Church, Old Sale Road  
 Newborough VIC 3825



This male Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii* and his mate greeted campers each morning at the caravan park in Wangaratta during our 2015 Spring Camp (Photo: Tamara Leitch).

## **Upcoming events**

**Botany Group:** Saturday 26 March – Glen Nayook Reserve, Neerim South. Meet 10am at the main carpark.

**Bird Group:** Tuesday 5 April – Narracan area. Meet by 8:30am at David Mules' place, in Narracan Connection Rd opposite the hall.

**April general meeting:** Friday 22 April – 'Platypus: World's Strangest Animal' – David Parer & Elizabeth Parer-Cook

**Excursion:** Saturday 23 April – Yanakie Isthmus, looking at 'Fire and the Woodland' with Geoff Pike (with Sale Field Nats). Meet at entrance gate to Wilsons Promontory.

**Botany Group:** Saturday 30 April – Bunyip area, travelling to Ada tree with lots to look at on the way. Meet at Neerim Junction for carpooling.

**Bird Group:** Tuesday 3 May – Drouin area. Meet by 9:30am at Bellbird Park, Lampard Rd, Drouin.

**Bird Group:** Thursday 12 May – EA Wetland survey. Meet by 9:30am at Morwell River Bridge gate.

## Sale Common Outing 25.07.2015

On 25<sup>th</sup> July 2015, our field outing was to Sale Common, which meant that the focus was very much on birds. We met beside Lake Guthridge and recorded a few species including Rainbow Lorikeets before we started. Moving round to Lake Guyatt we found the water level was very high and we immediately saw that the Freckled Duck were present in great numbers. Lake Guyatt has become one of the best places to see these ducks which have been considered one of the rarest of Australian ducks. At first we estimated there were about 200 of them, but before we left I got a very good view of practically the whole flock and I counted 383, by far the largest number any of us have seen. Despite the huge numbers, we failed to spot a single one with the reddish base to its bill, acquired by the males in the breeding season.



Freckled Duck on Lake Guyatt (photo: Ken Harris)

Another bird appearing in surprisingly large numbers, Cattle Egrets kept flying over and often landing as a flock in the tree tops. At one point a large flock all landed on the top of the trees on the small island in the lake. We estimated that there was probably in excess of 200 Cattle Egrets flying around the lake and I for one have never seen such large numbers in one place before. Completing the circuit of the lake, we then moved over to the Sale Common wetlands, heading for the eastern end of the boardwalk. We first walked to the bird hide, which was badly damaged by a fire a while back. There isn't the cover that there was, but it remains a good look-out spot. We saw hardly any waterbirds from the hide, but it was our best site for raptors, with Swamp Harrier, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Black-shouldered Kite and Whistling Kite all putting in an appearance. We then walked along the boardwalk, back towards the South Gippsland Highway. Again, not many waterbirds were seen, but the swampy areas had several special passerines. Nothing special about European Goldfinches, which were quite common, but a flock of Red-browed Finches was appreciated and, best of all, there were a few Golden-headed Cisticolas.

I walked right through to the highway, while the rest walked back to the cars. They then collected me and we drove down to the southern access road to the Swing Bridge. The roadside at the start of that road has a great view over a large area of the wetlands which is often a good place for Spoonbills, but this time there were very few birds and no Spoonbills. We did add one more bird to our list for the day. At first it was thought it might be a Red-kneed Plover, but was eventually identified as a Black-fronted Plover. That finished a good day of bird-watching and we headed for home.

Ken Harris

### Bird list

Australian Magpie	Eurasian Coot	Little Black Cormorant	Straw-necked Ibis
Australian Pelican	European Goldfinch	Little Pied Cormorant	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Australian White Ibis	Freckled Duck	Little Raven	Superb Fairy-wren
Australian Wood Duck	Galah	Little Wattlebird	Swamp Harrier
Black Swan	Golden Whistler	Magpie-lark	Wedge-tailed Eagle
Black-shouldered Kite	Golden-headed Cisticola	Masked Lapwing	White-browed Scrubwren
Brown Thornbill	Grey Butcherbird	New Holland Honeyeater	White-eared Honeyeater
Cattle Egret	Grey Fantail	Noisy Miner	White-faced Heron
Common Myna	Grey Shrike-thrush	Purple Swamphen	Yellow Thornbill
Common Starling	Grey Teal	Rainbow Lorikeet	
Crescent Honeyeater	Hardhead	Red Wattlebird	
Crimson Rosella	Hoary-headed Grebe	Red-browed Finch	
Eastern Yellow Robin	Laughing Kookaburra	Silver Gull	

## Tyers Excursion 29.08.2015

On a cold winter's morning, 20 members and visitors met at Tyers for our Field Naturalist excursion. Our first stop was the Jean Galbraith Flora Reserve, Mt Hope Road, on the outskirts of Tyers.

Jean Galbraith was born in 1906 and lived in Tyers most of her life. Jean was a renowned botanist throughout Australia and overseas, compiling the first field guide to the wildflowers of south-eastern Australia, writing regular articles for nature magazines, continually identifying and recording new species and learning how to propagate native species in the home garden.

The land on which the reserve is located was donated by the Galbraith family to the Shire of Traralgon in 1936. The Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists recorded an extensive list of flora in the reserve in 1967. Since then, neglect and weed invasion have seen the demise of many species. In 1999, a group of Tyers residents formed a Committee of Management to resurrect the reserve and highlight its botanical and historical significance.

After a welcome by two members of the Committee, we spent an enjoyable time examining and photographing plants, shrubs and trees in this small reserve. The Tree Violet *Meliclytus dentatus* was in flower and a large clump of Nodding Greenhoods *Pterostylis nutans* were much admired. There were few birds to be seen but we had a good view of a Bronzewing Pigeon moving through the undergrowth.

Our next stop was a small reserve north of Tyers on Fitzgibbons Road. The Field Naturalist Club had been asked by a local, Jim Brady, to visit the reserve and note the flora and birdlife present, and advise as to what kind of nesting boxes might be appropriate. We walked along the perimeter firebreak and saw Eastern Rosellas, wattlebirds, Pied Currawongs, Galahs and a raven. The botanists in the group made a list of small plants, shrubs and trees and it was suggested that nesting boxes for Feather-tailed Gliders would be appropriate.

Our next stop was the Tyers Lookout. The visibility was restricted by the weather but the extensive flooding of the Latrobe River through the valley was an amazing sight.

From the lookout we drove to Wirilda where we met up with David Mules who had spent the morning bird watching. We appreciated the cover of the picnic shelter for our lunch and spent a short while afterwards looking for the elusive Whipbird that was calling, watching the Satin Bowerbirds and viewing the nearby bower with lots of blue objects ready to attract the female!

Despite the weather, we had another successful and enjoyable foray to learn and observe more about the Latrobe Valley. Our thanks go to Alix Williams, our leader for the day.

Meryl Cracknell

### Bird list

Australian Magpie	Eastern Yellow Robin	New Holland Honeyeater	Superb Lyrebird
Australian Shelduck	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Noisy Miner	Tree martin
Australian Wood Duck	Grey Currawong	Peregrine Falcon	Welcome Swallow
Brown Gerygone	Grey Fantail	Pied Currawong	White-browed Scrubwren
Brown Thornbill	Grey Shrike-thrush	Red Wattlebird	White-eared Honeyeater
Common Blackbird	Laughing Kookaburra	Satin Bowerbird	White-naped Honeyeater
Crescent Honeyeater	Lewin's Honeyeater	Silvereye	White-throated Treecreeper
Crimson Rosella	Little Corella	Spotted Pardalote	Willie Wagtail
Eastern Spinebill	Magpie-lark	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Eastern Whipbird	Mistletoebird	Superb Fairy-wren	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater



## Birdwatching adventures in Gluepot Reserve

The guest speaker for our September meeting was one of our own members, Peter Ware. Peter spoke of his numerous trips to Gluepot Reserve in South Australia, and his love of the birds, reptiles and wildflowers that continually draw him back to the area.

Driving from Gippsland to Gluepot, he takes his time and makes some birdwatching stops at various locations along the way. He spends 2-3 nights at Hattah-Kulkyne NP, being greeted by friendly Apostlebirds that pick insects off his vehicle's radiator, watching Regent Parrots nesting, and admiring the Yellow Rosellas and Ringneck parrots.

Halfway between Mildura and Renmark, he heads north off the Sturt Highway to spend half a day at a Trust for Nature property called Ned's Corner. Here he often sees Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Black-tailed Native-hens, Black Kites and Blue-faced Honeyeaters at close to the western extremity of their range.



A Mallee Ringneck (Photo: Peter Ware)

Travelling through the lush, irrigated country west of Renmark, he tells an amusing story warning us to be wary of roadside stalls selling Victorian travellers rotten fruit. At Waikeri, the last significant town before Gluepot, he takes the ferry across the Murray, and spends 2-3 nights at the Caravan Park. Across the road is a lovely wetland called Heart Lagoon, where he has observed Singing Honeyeaters (locally known as 'grape-eaters'), Variegated Fairy-wrens, Spotted Crakes, and Red-kneed Dotterels.



Male and female Hooded Robin (Photo: Peter Ware)

From Waikeri, it is a 70km stretch of road to Gluepot, often made interesting by high temperatures, corrugations and potholes. Peter admits that it takes him most of the day to cover this distance, birdwatching amongst the red dirt and mallee scrub along the way, and this has caused much ire amongst his less-patient companions. The road passes through private property, and while opening the gates he sometimes encounters Bearded Dragons watching over their territories from a high vantage point, or flocks of Dusky, White-browed and Masked Woodswallows wheeling overhead. He also advises keeping an eye out for Hooded Robins, which he usually encounters along this stretch of road but not in the reserve itself, and Golden Orb-weavers

that string their aureate silk webs between the trees.

Upon entering Gluepot Reserve, Peter says you are welcomed by trees full of babbler nests, and the iconic call of the Crested Bellbird. After a further 11km, you approach a shearing shed converted into a lecture room, an old homestead, and an information centre where you can pay a small price for camping, register how long you'll stay for, pick up some maps and see a list of recent bird sightings at the reserve.

Peter's preferred campsite 'Bellbird' is yet another 12km further on. This is a pleasant drive through a variety of habitats including *Casuarina* and *Acacia* forests, Mallee-spinifex grassland and areas dominated by *Eremophilas*. During one visit, Peter saw a White-winged Fairy-wren at a particular intersection along this stretch but was unable to get decent photos. The following year, he stopped there on the way in for another look. He spotted a small, white patch in the scrub some distance away and spent five minutes

creeping up on it, wondering why it hadn't moved. When he got closer, he was bemused to find it was a piece of white tissue paper tied to the branch. He removed it and put it in his pocket to dispose of later. Upon reaching his campsite, he found that a birdwatching mate, Jim, from Heyfield was also staying there and Peter asked him if he'd seen anything interesting. He said yes, he'd found a pair of White-winged Fairy-wrens nesting in the scrub back down the road a bit. Because the vegetation was so homogenous, Peter wondered how he expected to find the site again, and Jim was adamant that he would be able to because he'd tied a piece of white tissue paper to a tree as a marker....! Nonetheless, they were able to find the birds again and get some good photos.



Splendid Fairy-wren (Photo: Peter Ware)

Around the camp Peter says there are numerous birds, and he has seen Red-capped Robins and Chestnut Quail-thrushes feeding young. However, he usually leaves before dawn each morning to the Jacky Winter's 'Peter, Peter, Peter!' call, and watches the sunrise at one of the reserve's birdhides. These hides include water troughs, fed by nearby tanks, to attract the multitudes of parrots and honeyeaters that visit each morning and evening, and checklists and identification guides are provided. Some of the species visiting the troughs include Major Mitchell Cockatoos, Regent Parrots, Mulga Parrots, Striped Honeyeaters, White-fronted Honeyeaters and Yellow-throated Miners. Other species such as the Scarlet-chested

Parrot are more difficult to find and Peter managed to see one after a sighting was reported to the information centre.

For the non-birdwatchers, Peter described the diversity of reptiles including Sand Goannas, Shinglebacks and Painted Dragons, and the beauty of blooming Emu-bushes and Comb Grevilleas during September-October when he visits. He said when you are standing on the perimeter of the reserve, it is easy to see the benefits to the vegetation of excluding feral goats using electric fencing and undertaking periodic culls inside the reserve. He also mentioned seeing very few kangaroos inside the fence, so the grazing pressure must have reduced significantly since Birds Australia bought the sheep-farming property in 1997.

Peter's passion, stories and photos brought back wonderful memories for members who had been to Gluepot, and stirred in others a keen desire to visit the area.

Tamara Leitch

## CLUB SPRING CAMP 2015

*This year's spring camp was held on 4-7<sup>th</sup> September in the Warby Ranges, using Painters Island Caravan Park in Wangaratta as our base. On Friday afternoon we were taken on a tour of Kaluna Park by local naturalist Adrian Twitt. On Saturday morning we were joined by Jan Heywood of the Friends of Chiltern-Mt Pilot NP and headed west into the hills, spending the morning exploring Wenhams Camp after a brief stop at Ryans Lookout. In the afternoon we took a shorter walk through a gorge surrounded by cypress-pines at Pine Gully. On Sunday we were fortunate to have the company and expertise of local botanist Patrick Ward as we explored the Killawarra Forest and Mt Meg. On a rainy final morning we visited Hamilton Park Arboretum not far out of town, went for a stroll at Taminick Gap and then headed to the Winton Wetlands for a couple of hours' birding on the way home. The spectacular scenery, interesting plants and birdlife, nearly perfect weather and excellent company made it a most enjoyable trip for all involved.*

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## Ryans Lookout and Wenhams Camp – Saturday morning

After a frosty night, we are basking in the sun when we assemble for departure. Our first stop is Ryans Lookout. This is meant to be a short stop to get some explanation about the range and to enjoy the views; the botanists in the group decide otherwise. The hill towards the lookout is covered in wildflowers and we are progressing slowly. Looking back at the end of the day we are glad we stayed that bit longer. We certainly saw a lot of different plants during the day, but nowhere as abundant as in this patch.

The Warby Ranges consist of granite rock. The range is named after Ben Warby, who farmed at Taminick Run in the 1840s. The rock acts as a sponge in wet weather, but dries up in summer. The bush looks degraded with many dead trees and shrubs. Trees of *E. blakelyi* are infested with moths. Our guide tells us that the trees may look ragged right now, but new foliage tends to grow back every spring.

Some of the interesting plants we discovered walking to the top are:

*Diuris sulphurea* – Tiger Orchid

*Diuris chryseopsis* – Golden Moths

*Stypandra glauca* – Nodding Blue-lily

*Acacia rubida* – Red-stem Wattle

*Pultenaea platyphylla* – Flat-leaf Bush-pea

*Dillwynia juniperina* – Prickly Parrot-pea

At the top of the hill we find Spurwing Wattle *Acacia triptera* among a carpet of Early Nancies *Wurmbea dioica*. This wattle is common in Western Australia, but is only known to grow in the Warby Ranges and the Chiltern Forest in Victoria.

The next stop is Wenhams Camp. We plan to stay here for the majority of the day. Some stay around the picnic area to watch birds or to visit the arboretum; others join our guides for a walk. Wenhams Camp used to be a farm. There are lots of weeds, notably St John's Wort, and large numbers of roos. The arboretum was established 15-20 years ago, but the plantings have not been maintained since the friends group ceased to exist about seven years ago.



Spurwing Wattle (Photo: Tamara Leitch)

I join the walk which has lots of changes in vegetation. We start through forest of Long-leaf Box *E. goniocalyx* and Blakely's Red Gum *E. blakelyi*. We find patches of Blunt Greenhood *Pterostylis curta*, and Blue Caladenias *Cyanicula caerulea* are dotted everywhere. Cats Claw *Grevillea alpina* and Wattles (*Acacia buxifolia* and *A. rubida*) add to the colours on display. The rocky outcrops are covered in stands of large shrubs of Spurwing Wattle. Rock Isotome *Isotoma axillaris* grows in some rock crevices. Some of the Grasstrees *Xanthorrhoea glauca* subsp. *angustifolia* are estimated to be over 100 years old.

Towards the end of the walk, our path follows the edge of a gorge with rapids and walls covered in flowering wattles. No landscaper can create a garden of such beauty like this. We pass rock pools with Water Ribbons *Triglochin procerum* and we hear a Pobblebonk frog. Jack identifies a third Eucalypt, Red Stringybark *E. macrorhyncha*. Just before the end of the walk we are treated to a large patch of Nodding Greenhoods *Pterostylis nutans*.

Marja Bouman



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## Pine Gully Nature Walk – Saturday afternoon

As we descended into the gully we were met with what was, to us, a striking and unusual sight: White Cypress-pine *Callitris glaucophylla* scattered liberally among the eucalypts on both sides of the gully. The White Cypress-pines matched in height the Blakely's Gums *Eucalyptus blakelyi* and Red Stringybarks *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*. We crossed the shallow creek and followed a narrow, rocky track up the far side of the gully and clockwise around a two kilometre circuit. This brought us to a waterfall and ravine downstream from where we had first crossed the creek.



The track into Pine Gully (Photo: Margaret Rowe)

High on the hills, the Common Fringe-myrtle *Calytrix tetragona*, Nodding Blue-lily *Stypandra glauca* and Daphne Heath *Brachyloma daphnoides* thrived among the granite boulders. The mix of eucalypts changed as we rounded the hill. In one area Red Box *E. polyanthemos*, readily identified by its pale blue-grey rounded leaves, was the dominant eucalypt. White Cypress-pines of various ages and stages of maturity were scattered throughout the woodland vegetation.



Magnificent Grey Grasstrees in the Warby Ranges (Photo: Tamara Leitch)

The signage informed us that the huge Grey Grasstrees *Xanthorrhoea glauca subsp. angustifolia* were over 200 years old. The trunk grows about one metre in 50 years, while the flower spike grows rapidly under certain conditions. Some very tall flower spikes remained from an earlier flowering season. Acacias were not common but included Lightwood, Long-leaf Wattle and Varnish Wattle. Near the waterfall, a Varnish Wattle, high on the bank above the creek, provided a stunning splash of gold.

Ground covers included grasses, mosses and many of the plants we had seen during the morning: Rock Fern, Wattle Mat-rush, Bulbine Lily, *Diuris sulphurea*, *Drosera peltata*, Austral Cranesbill, *Senecio quadridentatus*, *Senecio glomeratus*, Slender Rice-flower, the Tiny Star, Creamy Candles and a few Yam Daisies in bud - the latter recognised by the hooked stem resulting in the bud hanging 'upside down'. Carpets of moss and grass in damp, sheltered spots hosted patches of Nodding Greenhoods and Blunt Greenhoods.

The signage told of three species of frog: The Common Froglet, the Plains Froglet and the Pobblebonk Frog. David Mules listed birds: Wedge-tailed Eagle (soaring very high above the falls), Mistletoebird (a male on the hill above the falls) and an unidentified pigeon, probably a Common Bronzewing, seen from the loop walk. The following birds were heard: Grey Fantail, Weebill and Pied Currawong.

Margaret Rowe



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## Killawarra Forest – Sunday morning



Box Mistletoe growing on Drooping Mistletoe  
(Photo: Baiba Stevens)

We drove from Wangaratta about 20 km on the Yarrawonga Rd to Peechelba where we met Patrick Ward, whose knowledge of the area and its plants was excellent. We turned down Frost Rd and made our way to the Killawarra Forest Camp for lunch. Our morning was spent at various places along the way.

First stop was on the roadside to see Plumed Whistling-ducks on a large farm dam. They were sleeping, crowded around the edge of the water and there were hundreds of them. Beside the cars was a Eucalypt with a mistletoe growing on a mistletoe. The Drooping Mistletoe *Amyema pendula* had Box Mistletoe *Amyema miquelii* attached to it.

Second stop along the same road was to see Grey-crowned Babblers, again on a farm where they were nesting in trees around the house and sheds. Noisy cockatoos and corellas were around in great numbers.

Our last stop, where we spent the rest of the morning, was on a roadside rich with flowers, and from here we walked up Powerful Owl Hill (a local name given after Powerful Owls had nested there once).

The roadside was coloured with flowering wattles, mainly Varnish Wattle which is quite different up there to at home – much brighter yellow flowers and smaller leaves. It's hard to believe they are the same species. A few Golden Wattles showed even brighter golden flowers and *A. acinacea* and *A. genistifolia* grew closer to the ground. A pretty, purple-flowered mint bush was *Prostanthera denticulata* and two hibbertias were *Hibbertia exutiacies* and *H. obtusifolia*. The forest eucalypts were Ironbark, Grey Box and Blakelys Gum. In this area, the Ironbark is *Eucalyptus sideroxylon* or Mugga, not *Eucalyptus tricarpa* as in the other Victorian Ironbark forests. Mugga extends into NSW and is only found in Victoria in the northern Warby Range, Chiltern and south of Winton. It has buds in 3s rather than 7s, and has larger fruit than *E. tricarpa*.

While we listened to Patrick telling us about the area, Rohan Bugg pointed out a Little Cuckoo Shrike, which was promptly chased away by a Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike. The ground was covered in soft green



Stunning display of flowering wattles in the Killawarra Forest (Photo: Baiba Stevens)



leaves which Patrick told us were chocolate lilies and in a month the ground would be a purple carpet. There was no grass – just chocolate lily leaves that looked like a cover of grass. Flowering now were both the pink and blue caladenias and Early Nancy.

Walking up the hill was like walking on a carpet of moss and tiny plants with small shrubs, scattered trees above and rocks here and there to complete the landscape. Driving past, you would not think to stop and explore, but it was the prettiest walk going up the hill. There were large patches of greenhoods, both Nodding and Tiny, as well as the pink and blue caladenias again, and Gnat orchids *Cyrtostylis reniformis*. We looked at the Early Nancy flowers to find the male and female flowers. Most were male, with a ring of stamens and a few were female with the swollen style in the centre of the petals.

White-throated and Brown Treecreepers were seen, with the Brown going in and out of a hollow with nesting material. White-browed Babblers, White-plumed and White-naped Honeyeaters were other birds seen.

Wendy Savage

### **Mount Meg – Sunday afternoon**

In the afternoon we went in our long, long convoy until we found our destination at the end of a very rural lane. After parking among trees, across the path, in front and behind each other, the more intrepid among us ventured up the stony path to the top of the first rise. Sensible people who were worn out by the morning's exertions stayed back by their cars.

At the top of the rise, many of us were rewarded by either some good, or some very fleeting, glimpses of Turquoise Parrots. There was lots of vegetation of various varieties but I don't know what they were. The parrots were the highlight but we also found, right at the end, Hooded Robins and Dusky Woodswallows. While the birding wasn't terrific, it was obvious that the area of Mount Meg would be well worth another visit, particularly in the morning when birds are more active and audible.

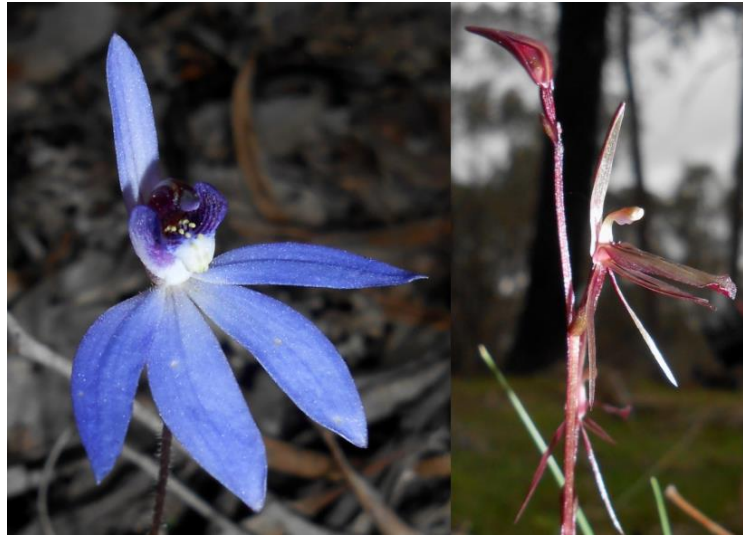
David Mules

\*Bird lists for Killawarra Forest/Mount Meg and Taminick Gap/Winton Wetlands are available in the electronic version of the Naturalist

### **Taminick Gap and Winton Wetlands – Monday morning**

Leaving the Red-capped Robin, Yellow (Crimson) Rosella and Tawny Frogmouths at Wangaratta, we drove to Hamilton Park Arboretum, a reserved bush area that is part of a co-operative housing estate, but we didn't stay long in the rain.

At Taminick Gap it was too early for orchids but an 'unidentified *Hibbertia*' caused a deal of interest. Margaret Rowe has been a great help (thank you) – she explained to me that "It is very similar to *Hibbertia*



A Blue Caladenia and Gnat Orchid in the Killawarra Forest  
(Photos: Tamara Leitch)

*sericea* we see in southern parts of the state. That had puzzled me as it looked like *H. sericea* but I knew it couldn't be as it doesn't occur in the North East, and I had given up. I realised my photo from Taminick Gap was *H. incana* only a few days ago when I had a good look at a snippet of *H. sericea*, with the *Flora of Victoria* beside me."

The birders had good sightings of a Speckled Warbler, male Flame Robin, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Australian King-Parrot and White-throated Treecreeper.

On to the north-east corner of the Winton Wetlands, where the gates were locked (!), so we climbed the fence to approach Duck Lagoon. What a great spot! Well worth more time.

Black Swan, seven species of duck including Pink-eared and Aust. Shoveler, Black-winged Stilt, Black-fronted Dotterel, Coot, four raptor species including a Brown Goshawk and Whistling Kite, White-Plumed Honeyeater and Brown Thornbill....David Mules has provided me with a full morning's list (thank you).

Back on the Glenrowan-Boweya Road to the Humphries Lane entrance where we drove (on newly-formed, well-surfaced tracks) for 1.5 km through a very large thicket of red gum saplings, to the open drier grassy box woodlands area and around to Green Hill for a good view over the area. An impressive picnic shelter and carpark, but not yet toilet facilities. After a wander and lunch, people headed off, some out of the Wetlands via Ashmead's Swamp and onto the highway via Bowers Road.

Winton Wetlands Reserve (previously Lake Mokoan – now decommissioned) is an ongoing project that started in 2008 with Victorian Government funding of up to \$20 million for a board of management to develop the area for tourism and recreation through the "ecological respiration of the wetlands".

Plenty of information is available online or via the Wangaratta Tourist Information Centre. It's worth calling in on the area if you are driving past.

Alix Williams

## **REPORT ON BUSINESS MEETING 23.02.2016**

### **Finance**

Cash Management Trading Account: \$7,510.78 Term Deposit: \$12,796.10

### **Business Arising, Correspondence & General Business**

- Data projector: A new data projector has been purchased, an Epson WUXGA EB-U32 from AIM Digital Imaging in Ferntree Gully for \$998.
- Calendars: \$937 has been raised from the sale of these. We have a few left which will be offered at \$3 each.
- SEANA Autumn Camp 2016 at Queenscliff 8 – 11 April: The information and application form has been sent to past participants, and will be included in this month's activities email.
- SEANA Autumn Camp 2017 at Sale: Working party will meet 9 March at 3pm at Rosedale. Meet at Phil's at 2.30pm to carpool.
- Our club secretary will be away during May, June and July, so we will need an assistant secretary.
- Subscription prices for 2016 will remain the same as 2015, but due to an increase in postage costs, the price of hard copy newsletter subscriptions will increase in 2017.

### **Conservation matters**

- Eric Lubcke Reserve: Letter was sent regarding the state of the reserve after the fire, but there does not appear to have been any work done, so we will send follow-up email.
- Morwell River Wetlands sampling platform: Letter was sent asking for it to be rebuilt. David Stickney will ask for it to be placed on agenda of next meeting in 3 months, but David may be away then.



## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Club welcomes Stephen and Margaret Wentworth from Traralgon, Craig Boase from Berrys Creek, Matt Campbell from Churchill, Helen Culjkovic from Morwell and Andrea Fisher from Warragul. We wish you all a long and happy association with us.

### Guest speakers for April

*David Parer & Elizabeth Parer-Cook*

David Parer and Elizabeth Parer-Cook are Emmy award-winning natural history filmmakers. Their 2003 documentary *Platypus: World's Strangest Animal* was the first in-depth film about the fascinating lives of these egg-laying mammals. They will speak about their experience capturing the animals' behaviour, and techniques and equipment used.



*Latrobe Valley Naturalist* is the official publication of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club Inc. The Club subscription includes the "Naturalist".

Brief contributions and short articles on any aspect of natural history are invited from members of all clubs. Articles, including those covering Club speakers and excursions, would typically be around one A4 side in length, should not exceed 1,000 words, and may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Photos should be sent as an attachment and be a maximum of 1 megabyte in size.

Responsibility for the accuracy of information and opinions expressed in this magazine rests with the author of the article.

Contributions should  
be addressed to:

Ms Tamara Leitch  
The Editor  
LVFNC Inc.  
PO Box 839  
TRARALGON VIC 3844

Phone: 0438 372 186

Email: [tleitch@wideband.net.au](mailto:tleitch@wideband.net.au)

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## APPENDIX

### Bird lists from the LVFNC's Warby Ranges Spring Camp 2015

*Courtesy of David Mules*

#### **Killawarra Forest & Mount Meg 06.09.2015**

Australian Magpie	Galah	Magpie-lark	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Australian Pelican	Grey Butcherbird	Nankeen Night-heron	Superb Fairy-wren
Australian Wood Duck	Grey Shrike-thrush	Noisy Friarbird	Tawny Frogmouth
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Grey Teal	Noisy Miner	Turquoise Parrot
Collared Sparrowhawk	Grey-crowned Babbler	Olive-backed Oriole	White-faced Heron
Common Blackbird	Hooded Robin	Pacific Black Duck	White-naped Honeyeater
Common Myna	Jacky Winter	Pied Currawong	White-necked Heron
Common Starling	Laughing Kookaburra	Plumed Whistling-duck	White-plumed honeyeater
Crested Pigeon	Little Black Cormorant	Red-capped Robin	White-throated Treecreeper
Crimson Rosella	Little Corella	Square-tailed Kite	White-winged Chough
Eastern Rosella	Little Pied Cormorant	Straw-necked Ibis	Willie Wagtail
Eastern Yellow Robin	Little Raven	Striated Thornbill	

#### **Taminick Gap & Winton Wetlands 07.09.2015**

Australasian Shoveler	Common Myna	Noisy Miner	Wedge-tailed Eagle
Australian King Parrot	Common Starling	Pacific Black Duck	Welcome Swallow
Australian Magpie	Crested Shrike-tit	Pink-eared Duck	Whistling Kite
Australian Shelduck	Eastern Rosella	Red Wattlebird	White-browed Scrubwren
Australian Wood Duck	Eurasian Coot	Red-browed Finch	White-faced Heron
Black Swan	Galah	Red-capped Robin	White-plumed Honeyeater
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Grey Fantail	Red-rumped Parrot	White-throated Treecreeper
Black-fronted Dotterel	Grey Teal	Speckled Warbler	Willie Wagtail
Black-winged Stilt	Hardhead	Straw-necked Ibis	Yellow Thornbill
Brown Goshawk	Laughing Kookaburra	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Brown Thornbill	Magpie-lark	Superb Fairy-wren	
Buff-rumped Thornbill	Masked Lapwing	Tawny Frogmouth	
Common Blackbird	Nankeen Kestrel	Tree Martin	